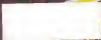




A Wise Man Sleeps

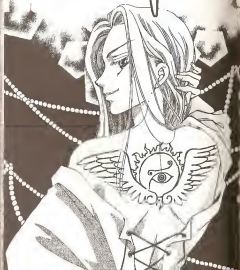


MICK TAKEUCHI



A Wise Man Sleeps

2



A Wise Man Sleeps

STORY AND ART BY
MICK TAKEUCHI

VOLUME 2



go!comi

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CHARACTERS & STORY
INTRODUCTION

When Mihara's father disappeared, he left behind a huge debt, and a "music man's stone"—a jewel which has the power to expose the feelings trapped within other gems. When Mihara joins this mysterious power herself, she lands a part-time job at the jewelry shop owned by the enigmatic diamond, Akochi. Now, her days are filled with mysteries and dangerous cases...



Rintaro Akochi
A young man with long, wavy hair and a serious expression. He is wearing a dark jacket over a light shirt. He is the owner of the jewelry shop.

Mihara Shingo

A young man with long, wavy hair and a serious expression. He is wearing a dark jacket over a light shirt. He is the owner of the jewelry shop.

Jewelry File 6
**Gimmel Ring
(Part I)**



I DON'T BELIEVE IN HOROSCOPES, SO...

OH, ME? WELL, I'M—

HEY, RINTARO. WHAT DAY, MONTH, AND YEAR WERE YOU BORN?



Alchemy and astrology are closely related.

YOU'RE AN ALCHEMIST. DON'T GIVE ME THAT!



LIKE, WHERE WERE YOU BORN? HOW OLD ARE YOU?

AND, WHY...



I'VE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME... AND I STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU, RINTARO-SAN!



WOULD YOU ALWAYS HIDE THINGS FROM ME?

YOU HAVE A SHADY PAST?

NO... IT'S NOT THAT...



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE FOR LIBRA SAYS...

OOOH, LUCKY ME! ♡

YOU WILL FIND SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR.

THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS.



AS IF IF HE WERE THAT EASY TO FIND, I WOULDN'T BE HAVING ALL THIS TROUBLE!



MAYBE THAT MEANS I'LL FIND MY DAD!



SOMEBODY'S
IN LOVE



WHEN HE
CHANGED
FORM
AFTER
USING
THE WISE
MAN'S
STONE...

...HE SAID
THAT
WAS HIS
TRUE
FORM.



WHY DO
YOU
TRANSFORM?



YOU SAY
YOU'RE
IN
SEARCH
OF THE
WISE
MAN'S
STONE,
BUT...

AND IT
BUGS ME,
BECAUSE

...THIS
STORE'S
SO
GOSH
DARN
EMPTY!



WHO...



HANGING
AROUND WITH
SOMEBODY
WHO DOESN'T
EVEN HAVE
A CLEAR
BACKGROUND
NUKES ME
SICK!!

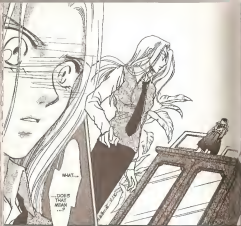
WHO'D
FALL FOR
A GOON
LIKE
RINTARO-
SAN?/
YOU
IDIOT!!

THE
LAST
AUTO
WENT
FOR THE
WOL.

RAWR!



SO,
WHO'S
THE
RINTARO-
SAN I'M
LOOKING
AT?





DON'T
MIND US,
PLEASE,
CONTINUE.



UM...



SO...

IT'S
CURSED,
YOU
SAID?



I...IT'S
EXQUISITELY
MADE.

Don't that a
whole new
stone.

AND
THE
STONE...

...IS A
TODAY'S
EYE...

CHILL

IS IT
AN
ANTI-
QUE?



OOOH,
WOH...

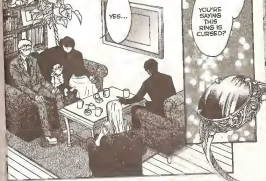
IT'S
VALUABLE
BECAUSE
NO ONE
ALIVE CAN
CRAFT
ANYTHING
LIKE IT.

WE KNOW
THIS
RING WAS
MADE IN
EUROPE
IN THE
16TH
CENTURY.



YES...

MY
GRAND-
FATHER
FIRST
OBTAINED
THIS
RING.
SINCE
THEN, IT
SEEMS
ONLY THE
STONE
HAS BEEN
REPLACED.



YES...

YOU'RE
SAYING
THIS
RING IS
CURSED?



IT'D BE TOO
SCARED
IF I SAW
SOMETHING
WILD...

BE-
CAUSE...

WAIT!
WHY AM
I
LOOKING
FOR IT?

You're the
champion!



SHOOKE

But you
don't care
if I get
scared?



WELL?
FEEL
ANYTHING
MHARU-
SANE?

I DON'T
HESITATE
ANY
MORE.
I'VE
ALREADY
EXPERIENCED
FEELINGS
FROM IT...





I...
I'M NOT
GOOFING
AROUND.

QUIT
GOOFING
AROUND
WHILE
I'M
TRYING
TO
THINK!



SPRAIN

SPRAIN



WHICH IS
WHY I NEED
AN EXPERT
WHO
SPECIALIZES
IN JEWELS.

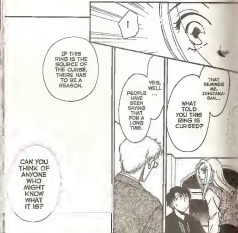
I'M AT
THE
END
OF MY
ROPE.

I EVEN
TRIED
SAVING
AND
BURNING
IT, AND
NOTHING
LEFT A
SCRATCH!

BUT, NO
MATTER HOW
MANY TIMES
I THROW
IT AWAY, IT'S
ALWAYS BACK
THE NEXT
DAY.

...THOUGH IT'S
UNFAIR TO MY
GRANDFATHER,
I DECIDED TO
GET RID OF IT.

SO...



IF THIS
RING IS THE
SOURCE OF
THE CURSE,
THERE HAD
TO BE A
REASON.

PEOPLE
HAVE
BEEN
SAYING
THAT
FOR A LONG
TIME.

YES, WELL...

WHAT
TOLD
YOU THIS
RING IS
CURSED?

THAT
REARMS
RE:
SHIZUKA-
SAN...

CAN YOU
THINK OF
ANYONE
WHO
MIGHT
KNOW
WHAT
IT IS?



WITHOUT
KNOWING
THE CURSE'S
ORIGIN,
SAYING
IT MIGHT BE
DANGEROUS.

I DON'T
SENSE
ANYTHING
BAD, BUT...

...I DON'T
KNOW HOW
ACCURATE
I AM.



WE'LL
BE ONE
YEAR
OLD IN
THREE
DAYS.

AND
HOW
OLD IS
AKISAKI
NOW?

I
SEE.



SO, WE
ONLY HAVE
THREE
DAYS TO
FIGURE
THIS OUT.

THREE
DAYS...



SHE
ADOPTED...

...MY
GRAND-
FATHER'S
NEPHEW.

BUT, IT'S
WRITTEN
RIGHT
ON YOUR
FAMILY
TREE...

...COULDN'T
HAVE
CHILDREN.

NO
GRAND
MOTHER...

I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE SAID
THAT.

I
SEE...

HUH?

JUST
NOW...
I HAD
ASKED
YOU
CRYING...

WHAT
IS IT?

HUH?

THAT'S
ANGEKO-
KUN.

I DON'T
HAVE ANY
CHILDREN.







AM I
MADE AN
APPEARANCE...



FLAP
FLAP



HUH?
IT?

THEN, WHAT'S
WITH HER
ATTITUDE?

50 MP



HUH/?

...YOU
REALLY HIT
THE NAIL ON
THE HEAD,
MINARU-SAN.

SOME-
TIMES...



A
PHOTO.

WHAT
IS IT?



WHO
COULD
THAT
BE?

TAKASHI
...?

1947
CHIO
TAKASHI



DIAMONDS
AND
RUBIES...

WHEN YOU
LAY TWO
JEWELS
TOGETHER,
THEY
FORMER
EVERLASTING
LOVE.

USUALLY,
THIS
TYPE OF
RING...

...IS USED
AS AN
ENGAGE-
MENT
RING.



YOU MEAN
THE LATE
ISHIZAKA
SENIOR...

PROBABLY,
YES.

...GIVE
THIS
RING TO
THAT OLD
GRANDY
...

ENGAGE-
MENT?



ET-SUKO?
I?

IT'S COMING FROM
THE MID-SCHOOL!



SQUEAK!
SQUEAK!

STILL...

WARD
LAKA
AT 50

TAKASHI (10)

...SOME-
THING'S
BOILING
RE...

...SOME-
THING'S
BOILING
RE...

...SOME-
THING'S
BOILING
RE...



BUT HE
LIVED TO
BE AT
LEAST
FOUR
YEARS
OLD.

NO, I
FANCIED
HE WAS
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH THE
CURSE

YOU MEAN
THIS
BOY'S THE
ELDEST
SON OF
ISHIZAKA
SENIOR
AND A
MISTRESS?

YES,
THOUGH
HE WENT
MISSING
AND WAS
NEVER
FOUND.

CREEP



CREAK

WTF

0/0

0/0

0/0

0/0

0/0

0/0

!?



BADUW



BUNO

AKI-HIKO

WHAT
HAPPENED
IT



AH

THE
THE
WALL







THE GRIM REAPER'S USUALLY DEPICTED LIKE THAT...



WASNT YOU WORRIED THAT UP
NOW !?

THE GRIM REAPER'S A SKELETON



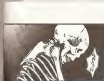
I GET IT, NOW...

A CHAIN OF BABIES THAT DIS...

AND THE SKELETON THAT GUIDES THEM TO THE UNDERWORLD...

THERE'S NO ART-TAKING IS.

THIS IS A GIMMEL RING.



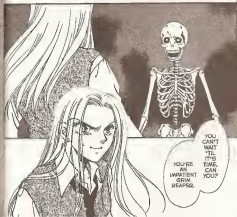
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING !?

PHEW. THAT WAS CLOSE...



R- RIGHT!

GET OUT WHILE YOU STILL CAN!



YOU CAN'T WAIT 'TIL IT'S TIME, CAN YOU?
YOU'RE AN IMPATIENT GRIM REAPER.



...I CAN'T
REPEL
THIS
GROW
REAVER
WITH MY
POWER.

EVEN
IF I
BECOME
HIM...

PEEL



DON'T
TAKE
IT THE
WRONG
WAY!!

IN AN
EMERGEN-
SITUATION
YOU ARE
SO...



ZP

WHAT'S
THAT?



GUMMEL
...?



...DO
YOU
MEAN
BY
THAT?

WHAT...



IN FACT,
THERE'S
A RISK
THAT
IT WILL
ONLY
GET
WORSE.

EVEN
IF WE
DESTROY
THE
TIGER'S
EYE...

...THE
GUNN
WON'T
GO
AWAY.



PLUNGE

EEK!



NO.



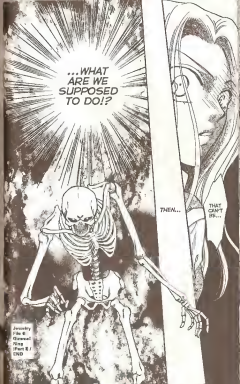
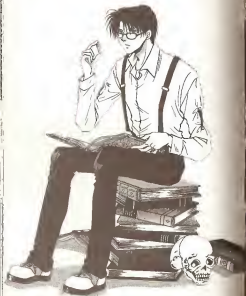
WE CAN
TALK
ABOUT
IT
LATER!

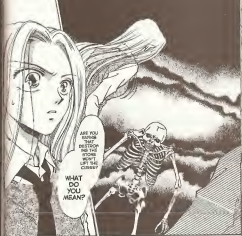
FIRST, WE
HAVE TO
BREAK
THAT
TIGER'S
EYE WITH
THE HELL
MAN'S
STONE.

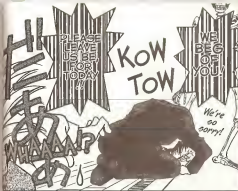
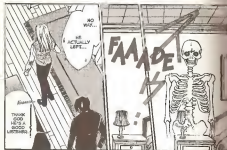
AND
FAST!!

Jewelry File 7

Gimmel Ring (Part II)







LOTS OF GEMMEL
RINGS HAVE
SMALL
INTRICATE
COMPART-
MENTS IN THEM,
TO HOLD
THINGS LIKE
MESSAGE
OR LITTLE
ENCRUPTINGS.

!?

BABY
!?

THE
MOST
FASCINATING
MOTIF IS...
...THE
"SKELETON
AND BABY".

A
SKELETON
!?

THEY
REPRESENT
THE
ENDLESS
CYCLE OF
REPEATED
REBIRTH.

YES...
THE TWO
CURVED
WRISTBANDS
STAND FOR
LIFE AND
DEATH.

THE
BABY'S
GONE!

OH!

THE
"SKELETON
AND
BABY"...

THE
RING...

IT'S
REALLY
TWO
RINGS!

AH, I
KNEW
IT.
LOOK.

THIS IS
WHAT
THEY
CALL A
GEMMEL
RING.

"GEMMEL"
MEANS
"TWIN".

IT'S
VERY
INTRI-
CATELY
MADE.
NOBODY
WOULD
BE ABLE
TO TELL
AT FIRST
GLANCE.

IT
LOOKS
LIKE
ONE
RING.
BUT IT'S
REALLY
TWO RINGS,
JOINED
TOGETHER.

SOME
HAVE EVEN
RING
FISTS



THERE'S NO ONE ALIVE WHO KNOWS HOW.

ISHIKAWA-SAN SAID IT HIMSELF, REMEMBER?



THEN WE'LL HAVE A REPLACEMENT DONE, PRONTO.

WELL, ABOUT THAT...



...IT'S GOING TO TAKE BACK A REAL BODY TO REPLACE IT?

YOU MEAN THAT SINCE THE BODY'S PROBABLY BEING LOST...

BUT...

THAT'S RIGHT.



THAT MUST BE WHAT THE SKELETON'S LOOKING FOR.



...TO ASK FOR IT TO BE DONE IN TWO DAYS IS A BIT MUCH.

IF WE RESEARCH THE WORLD, WE MIGHT FIND ONE, BUT...

SO, YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE AN **INKLING** OF A SOLUTION, BUT YOU PROMISED IT, DIDN'T YOU?



YOU IDIOT!

WHY'D YOU PROMISE IT!?

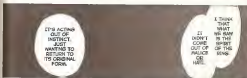
GRIND GRIND GRIND

FINE, I GUESS WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE!

I...I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO...

AND IF WE CAN'T GET IT TO THE SPIRIT BY THEN?

IT WOULD GET PRETTY UGLY, I GUESS...



IT'S ACTING OUT OF INSTINCT, JUST WAITING TO RETURN TO ITS ORIGINAL FORM.

I DIDN'T COME OUT OF PALACE OR HELL...

I THINK THAT THAT MAY BE THE SPIRIT OF THE KING.



UNTIL THE BODY IS RETURNED TO IT...

...IT WILL KEEP TAKING CHILDREN TRYING TO GET ITS MISSING HALF BACK.

SO, THE KING LOVES ITS REASON FOR EXISTING.

WITHOUT THE TWO MOTIFS OF "LIFE" AND "DEATH" TOGETHER...

...THE PROMISE OF LOVE WON'T COME TRUE.



...OR
SO I
SAID.

DAMN
THIS
ART
FORM!!

IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!!



WE'LL MAKE
A BABY
OURSELVES!

WHA!
?!?!?

W...WE
BARELY
KNOW
EACH
OTHER...

FLAIL

FLAIL

W...
W-W-WE
CAN'T!!



Wah! What's
the matter?

HAVE
A NICE
TRIP...



I've too...
trying to...
with a...
thing...

WHAT!?

Oh, the
mystery
make I hope



OKAY,
I'LL GO
ASK A
METAL
CARVER
I KNOW

GROOOO



WE'VE
GOT
NOTHING
LEFT TO
LOSE!

WE HAVE
TO DO
WHATEVER
WE CAN!

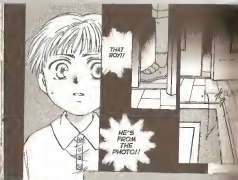


I MEANT WE'D
MAKE A BABY
ENGRAVING
OURSELVES!!

AAA
AAA
AH!

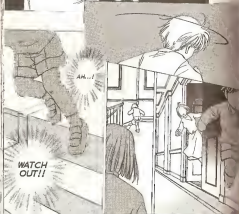
GRIND

GRIND



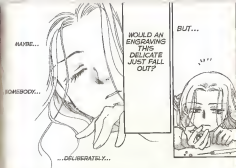
THAT
BOY!!

HE'S
FROM
THE
PHOTO!!



AH...!

WATCH
OUT!!



HAVE...

SOMEBODY...

...DELIBERATELY...

WOULD AN
ENGRAVING
THIS
DELICATE
JUST FALL
OUT?

BUT...



CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

POP

THE
STATUETTE
IN THE
ANGLE



DO YOU
HAVE ANY
PROOF
THAT I
DID IT?

SO...?

AH!

A DREAM'S
NOT
ENOUGH
TO CHARGE
SOMEBODY
WITH A
CRIME.

I'LL RUN
YOU FOR
BLANDISH!

OTHERWISE,
AKHIKIO-
KUN WILL
BE KILLED,
TOO!

WE JUST
WANT TO
RETURN
THE SCARVED-
OUT
ENGINEERS
TO ITS
HOME...

PLEASE...
WE'RE
NOT
GOING
TO CALL
THE POLICE.

IT
MIGHT
NOT
HAVE
BEEN A
SIMPLE
DREAM.

NO...

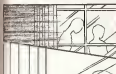
IT'S
POSSIBLE
THAT
THE TWO
AMATE
STONE
PIECES
OF YOL
AMARU-
SAN...
...DREW
OUT THAT
POWER.

THAT
MEANS
...!

TO
SEE...
...AND
THE
TRUTH...

"EYES
STONES"
LIKE THE
TWO-
EYES IN
THIS
STONE.
ON CAT'S
EYES...
...WE
CALLED
"THE
THIRD
EYE."

IT'S SAID
THAT
THOSE
WHO
HOLD IT
TO THEIR
BODY CAN
SEE THE
TRUTH OF
THINGS.





SPLINTER



I KNOW
IT'S
USELESS,
BUT...
...I
CAN'T
JUST
SIT
BACK
AND
WATCH
THIS!!

お
LOOM お



That was
no good.

OH, SHOOT



CHOKE

!?



IT'S
THE
GRIM
REAPER



THE
THING
ABOUT
ME...

...BE
I'M
ACROSS
OF A
BONKING
KONKA
GUY.



RENTARO-
SEN, WHEN
YOU'RE NOT
TRANS-
FORMED,
YOU REALLY
ARE
USELESS.



SOME-
BODY,
DO
SOME-
THING!



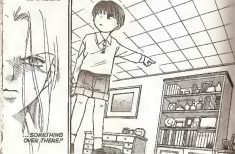
S...
SAY
WHAT-
EVER
YOU
LIKE...



RATTLE
RATTLE

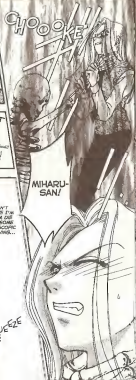


IS THERE...

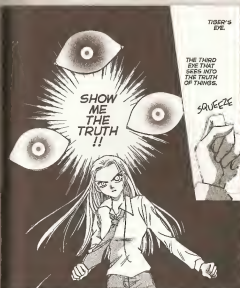
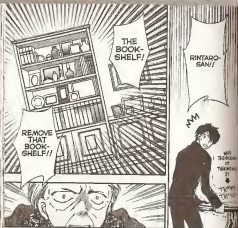


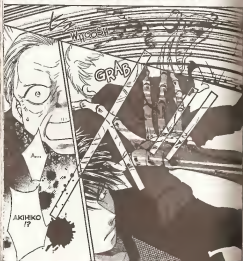
YOU'VE
GOTTA...
BE
KIDDING
ME!!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I'M
GONNA DIE
OVER SOME
MICROSCOPE
ANATOMY...



MIHARU-
SAN!









THAT'S
WHY YOU
CAN'T
LOOK AT
AKIHIKO-
KUN!



YOU'RE
STILL
GOING
TO RUN
AWAY?!

TURN



IT'S
TAKASHI-
KUN.



ARE YOU
STILL GOING
TO PRETEND
YOU DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING?



AND
THEY
LOOK...
LIKE
THEY
BELONG
TO A
CHILD!!



...AND
PUT YOUR
OWN LIFE
FIRST FOR
DECADES,
DIDN'T
YOU?!

YOU
HID THE
TRUTH,
THIS
WHOLE
TIME...

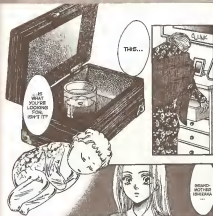


IF ONLY...

IF ONLY I'D GIVEN BIRTH TO A CHILD...

...THAT WOMAN COULD NOT HAVE STOLEN MY HUSBAND.

BUT THAT LITTLE CHILD FOUND IT.



THIS...

IS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, ISN'T IT?

BOMB-MOTHER IS HERE!!



I ONLY WANTED...

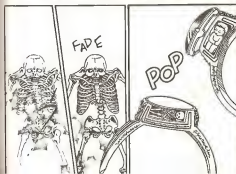
...TO TORTURE THAT WOMAN.

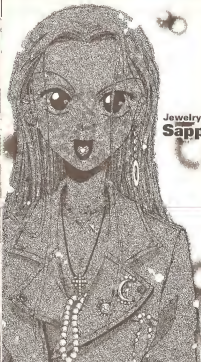
I NEVER MEANT...

...TO KILL TAKASHI.

SHE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT I COULDN'T BURN CHILDREN... AND WALKED AROUND ACTING LIKE MY HUSBAND'S SON. HERE THE WOMAN TAKASHI HAD BORN.

SO, I HAD THAT LITTLE BOMB-MAKER MADE IN THE RING MY HUSBAND BORN AS.





Jewelry File 8
Sapphire





TWO MONTHS AGO... OUR COMPANY'S PRESIDENT, KENZO KASAHARA, SUDDENLY DIED WHILE ON A BUSINESS TRIP TO FRANCE.

I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE, BUT...

SINCE THEN, ITS DISPLAY CASE CANNOT BE OPENED.

...YOU'RE SAYING THIS SAPPHIRE'S CURSED?



THE CASE IS?

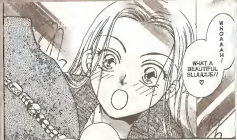


EVEN UNLOCKED, A HORDE OF MEN CAN'T BUDGE IT.

NOT AN INCH!

AND NEARLY...

...THERE HAVE BEEN WEIRD ACCIDENTS.



WHOOAHH!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SAPPHIRE!!



IT'S THE TOP JEWEL IN OUR KASAHARA COLLECTION.

IT'S A 10.82 CARAT SAPPHIRE NECKLACE.



AND...



YES.

IT WAS PURCHASED BY OUR COMPANY'S PRESIDENT FOR A BIRTHDAY GIFT TO HIS WIFE.

IT'S BEEN PRICED AT SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION.

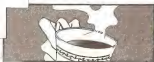
NOTHING LIKE FROM THE WORLD'S FAMOUS KASAHARA FIRM.

THIS CORAL-OVER BLUE SAPPHIRE IS A RARE ONE. IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO PRODUCE!!



Greetings, to my runaway father

How are you?



...the hidden armor has awakened within me.

There sure's that mysterious power...

Since I swallowed this man's glass...

Aah! Such a cruel fate!

Here the first sign of my destiny...



It is almost inevitable further ahead.

Due to the consequences of the most inconvenient I let you tell behind. The base formed to labor as the workhorse...



...YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE THIS ROCKING SING SING SING OF 'IF IT WON'T SING, MAKE IT SING.'"

...RUMORS ARE SPREADING THAT HE'S CLIMBED IT HIMSELF...

WELL, IT TAKES LIKE THAT...



SPLIT





HE'S SAYING
HE'LL CURSE
YOU.

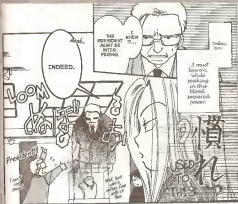


WIDOW
FLUNKO?!



IN OTHER
WORDS...

...IF WE
OPEN IT, SOMETHING
SCARY WILL HAPPEN...
RIGHT?



INDEED.

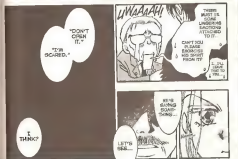
THE
PRESIDENT
MAY BE
INTER-
FERING.

I
KNOW
THAT...

Today,
too...

I must
listen, while
making
in this
hood
moral
power.

憤
れ
USE
THIS



"DON'T
OPEN
IT."

"I'M
SCARED."

LIVAAAAH!

THERE
MAY BE
SOME
UNDER-
STANDING
SACRIFICES
ATTACHED
TO IT.

CAN'T YOU
PLEASE
EXPLAIN
HIS DON'T
FROM IT?

I... I'll
use
it to
the...

I
THINK?

LET'S
SEE...

WE'RE
SAYING
SOMETHING...



WHAT WAS HER PROBLEM?

WH...

NOW SEND THOSE SPIRIT MEDIUMS PACKING!



SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A WOMAN WHO'S JUST LOST HER HUSBAND.



B...BUT, MISS...

WE'LL LET HIM KNOW, OR IF GAVE, HE'S SATISFIED.

WE CAN JUST KEEP IT ON DISPLAY IN THE CAFE, THOUGH.

TURN



GLARE

I...I'M SORRY!

NOTES NOT SHOWN

WHY ARE YOU CALLING FOR A SPIRIT MEDIUM WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?



HE HAS A CONCEITED PIOUS MIND, AND HE HAS ANFULLY ENTHRALLED FOR A COMED.

THAT QUARTER...



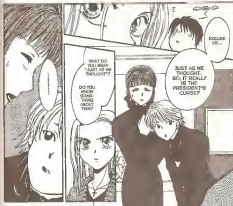
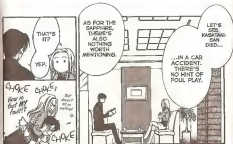
HE GIVEN SOME AND YES WE...

...INVITATIONS TO WEAR!

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE DRAGON IT WON'T OPEN... BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT ANYBODY ELSE TO HAVE THE SAPPHIRE

BUT, HE WAS ESPECIALLY FOND OF THAT SAPPHIRE.

OH, WELL.
LET'S FORGET THAT TACKY WOMAN AND GET DOWN TO FACTS!



FREEZE

YEAR

HE:
THAT GUY
SAID THE
CASE WAS
FORWARDED
GLASS,
DIDN'T?

482

**"DO NOT
EVER
LET HER
HAVE THE
SAPPHIRE."**

THAT'S
WHY
EVERYONE
BELIEVES
THAT HE
MUST BE
SAYING:

THE ADULTERY
RUMORS
WERE NOT
JUST ONE
OR TWO.

QUIET!

CLAS
12. A. M. 19-
A. 100
T. 100
S. 100

MATERIALS
ARE
CREATED
BY MAILING,
AND...

BUT IF IT'S
A "STONE"
WE CAN DO
SOMETHING
RIGHT?

MY LITTLE
ALCHEMIST.

AA
AA
AA
AA

GRAB

1000000

I CAN
IMAGINE
HOW
DENSE
IT...

YOU THINK
THAT'S
WHAT
BURNING?

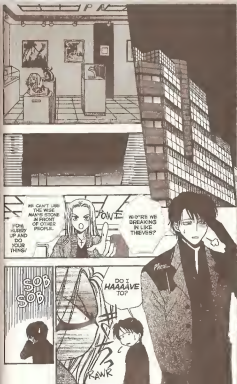
100-346

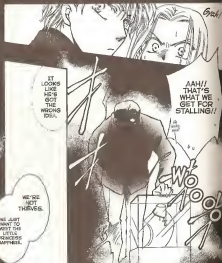
NO
MATTER
HOW
MANY
TIMES
I ASK
HIM...

BUT THIS DAMN DISPLAY CAME...

IF ONLY I COULD TOUCH THE HAPPINESS, I COULD GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT...

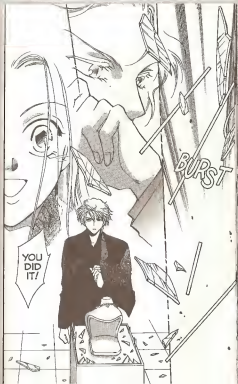
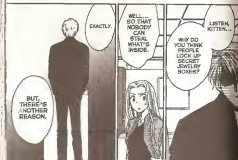
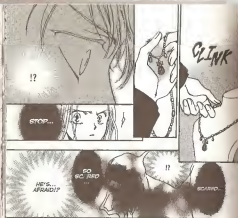
BUT I DIDN'T
GET
FROM THE
WIDOW THAT
SHE EVEN
WANTS THE
MARRIAGE.





There was a one year break
between editions.

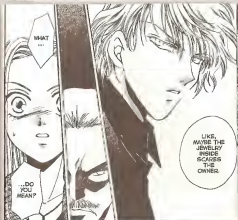






WOULD
YOU
CALL THE
APPLIANCE
STORE
FOR ME?

WHAT?!





IF IT ISN'T
A SAPPHIRE
NECKLACE!

WHAT
YOU'RE HOLDING...

WELL,
I'LL
NEVER!



HUH?

IT'S
YOU...



POP



DON'T
TELL
ME...

...YOU CAME
TO TRADE
THE FAKE
FOR THE
REAL ONE?



COMING
IN HERE
WITHOUT
TURNING
ON THE
LIGHT...

...YOU
ALREADY
WAS
VIBING
LIKE AN
INFRARED
CAMERA,
HUH
WOOF?

SLASH
//
EEK!

FLASH



!?

THIS
PURPLE
IT'S...

WH...
WHAT'S
WITH
THESE
LIGHTS?!

...BLACK
LIGHT!!



TALEMA
!?

DON'T
TELL
ME
YOU
KNOW
IT



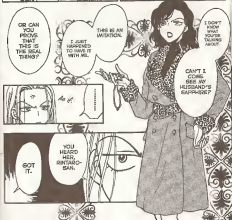
...MAYBE

YOU
CALLED
ME
NOT
FOR
NO
REASON



SO, WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
SWITCH
THEM
A
LONG
TIME
AGO?

AS THE
RECEPTIONIST,
THERE'S
NOTHING
MYSTIC
ABOUT
KNOWING
HOW TO
OPEN
THE
CABINETS



OR CAN
YOU
PROVE
THAT
THIS IS
THE
REAL
THING?

THIS IS AN
IMITATION

I JUST
HAPPENED
TO HAVE IT
WITH ME

CAN'T I
COME
SEE MY
HUSBAND'S
SAPPHIRE?



GOT
IT.

YOU
HEARD
HER,
RINTARO-
SAN.

THE...
THE BLUE
SAPPHIRE...

IF IT'S A
GENUINE
NATURAL
SAPPHIRE,
IT
SHOULDN'T
HAVE ANY
REACTION,
BUT...

IT'S AN
ARTIFICIAL
SAPPHIRE.

CLINK
OF COURSE,
THE
SAPPHIRE
IS NO
EXCEPTION.

...IS
SHINING
RED!?

!?

WH...
WHY'D
YOU DO
THAT?!

THEY USE
THESE
LIGHTS AT
BARS AND
NIGHTCLUBS.

WE HAD
THEM
INSTALLED
EARLIER.

...EWTS
MORE
ULTRA-
VIOLET
RAYS.

THEY LIGHT
THINGS UP
IN A UNIQUE
WAY, LIKE
MAKING
WHITE
SHIRTS GLOW.

BLACK
LIGHT...

DIFFERENT
JEWELS
RADIATE
DIFFERENTLY
UNDER
BLACK
LIGHTS.

YOU CAN
USE THIS
REACTION
TO TELL
ONE JEWEL
FROM
ANOTHER.

THE
JEWELS
GLOW
FROM EACH
OTHER.

THE
JEWEL
GLOWS
FOR
ABOUT
10, 200

IT'S
CALLED A
FLUORESCENT
REACTION.

DID YOU
KNOW THEY
CAN ALSO
BE USED TO
DISTINGUISH
JEWELS
FROM EACH
OTHER?

SO, I SWITCHED THEM!

AND WANTED HIM TO SUFFER THE SAME WAY I HAD.

I HATED IT...

I DIDN'T...

...WANT THE SAPPHIRE.

TMP...

SUFFER THE SAME WAY YOU HAD?

THAT'S RIGHT...

CLIK

CLIK

WE WERE AN IMITATION HUSBAND AND WIFE.

AND THE "IMITATION" YOU BROUGHT IN HERE ISN'T FLUORESCING AT ALL.

THIS LOOKS JUST LIKE A COLORED SPINEL.

WHAT A POWERFUL RED.





...BECAUSE
I'M A
FAKE
WIFE!

MY
ONLY
VALUE
WAS...

...WEARING
FAKE
JEWELRY...

SQUEE



EVEN
WHEN I
TRIED TO
GET HIS
ATTENTION
BY
PLAYING
AROUND...
...HE
COMPLETELY
IGNORED
ME!

KARUTANI
WAS ALL
ABOUT
WORK,
WORK,
WORK.
HE NEVER
PAID ANY
ATTENTION
TO ME.



HE
HAD
NO
FAITH
IN ME.

ALL HE
WANTED,
THOUGH,
WAS
SOMEONE
TO BRING
WITH HIM
TO THE
PARTIES...

...AS A
TROPHY
WIFE!

FOR A
GOLD
DIGGER
ONLY
AFTER HE
FORTUNE...

...IT'S
WEIRD TO
HEAR HE
SAID THAT,
ISN'T IT?

BUT, I
LOVED
HIM!

HE NEVER
LET ME
WEAR HIS
PRECIOUS
REAL
JEWELRY. NEVER
EVEN LET
ME TOUCH
THEM!



THIS IS
JUST MY
CHINCH,
BUT...

...I DON'T
THINK HE
DISTRUSTED
YOU.

HUH?
!



I'M SURE...

...IT SAVES THE PAINS TO GUICE ITS LOST SHEEP HOME.

THE SAPPHIRE IS THE INTELLIGENCE OF GOD AND THEREBY CALLED THE GEM OF TRUTH.

CLINK



WH...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT?

WE'LL ASK HIM DIRECTLY.

DIRECTLY...? WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU-



PRESIDENT KASATANI KNOWS HIS JEWELS.

SO HE MUST BE KNOWN THIS, TOO.

BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF THEFT OR DAMAGE.



ISSUES INVOLVING TO KEEP THE REAL OWNERS SAFE...

...IS AN ACCEPTED CUSTOM IN THE WEST.



I DON'T THINK HE WAS IGNORING YOUR FEELINGS.



...IT WAS BECAUSE HE CARED FOR YOU THAT HE DIDN'T WANT YOU WEARING IT.



IN FACT...





BOTH
OF US.

WE'LL
SO
FOOLISH.

WE WERE
TOO
SCARED TO
KNOW EACH
OTHER'S
TRUE
FEELINGS.

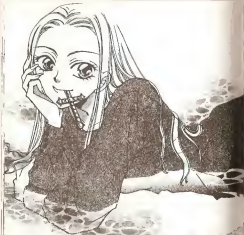


...AND
COULD
NOT RISK
SEEING
IT...

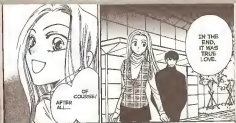
HE WAS
AFRAID THE
COLOR
OF THE
SAPPHIRE
WOULD
CHANGE...



BECAUSE
HE LOVED
FUMIKO-
SAN.

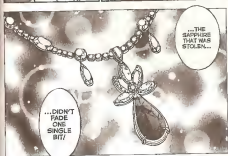


Jewelry File 9
Opal



OF COURSE!
AFTER ALL...

IN THE
END,
IT WAS
TRUE
LOVE.



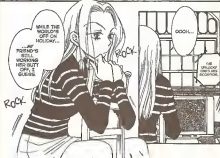
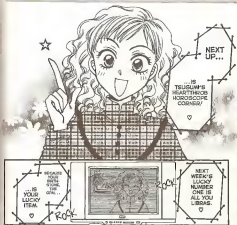
...THE
SAPPHIRE
THAT WAS
STOLEN...

...DIDN'T
FADE
ONE
SINGLE
BIT!



I THINK
YOU'RE
RETRACING
LOVE FOR
MONEY.

AAAH, I
WANT TO
HAVE LOVE,
TOOOO.





AND...
WHERE
IS IT
NOW?!

HUH?

MY
HOUSE.

SO, IT'S
BEEN
REMOVED
FROM
STORAGE.

EVER SINCE
MY GREAT-
GRAND-
MOTHER
DIED, IT'S
JUST BEEN
SITTING
THERE.

NNA...

WH-
WH-
WHA...

GULP

...THE
WISE
MAN'S
STONE!

TH...
THIS
IS...



WHA
!?



I COULDN'T
STOP
THINKING
ABOUT IT.
PERHAPS I'D
BE HEARD OF
IT BEFORE.

AND LO AND
BEHOLD,
MY GREAT-
GRANDMOTHER
HAD ONE
IN HER
COLLECTION.



BUT,
YOU'RE
ON MY
TELE-
VISION...

OH,
THAT
WAS
DUPED?

TOUBUM
!?

HI,
THERE!



I TOLD
YOU
ABOUT
THAT?

YOU
MEAN
THE
WISE
MAN'S
STONE.

RIGHT!
THE WISE
MAN'S
STONE!



LISTEN,
MIAHARU-
CHAN.

AREN'T YOU
LOOKING
FOR THIS
SOMETHING-
OR-OTHER
STONE?



I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LESS FROM YOUR GREAT-GRAND-ROTHER.

WHITE OPAL, BLACK OPAL.

OPAL CATS AND FIRE OPAL.

THESE ARE REALLY IMPRESSIVE.

DEFENDING ON THE ANGLE, ALL SORTS OF COLORS EBB AND FLOW.

A RAINBOW GEM...

?

OOH!

YOU BROUGHT THEM OUT, TUNGUN!

DAD!

UNCLE...

OH, MAMU CHAN, LONG TIME, NO SEE.

!

WE'RE TAKING THESE WITH US.

WE'RE GOING TO START THE BLOOD ORAM SOON, SO...

WAIT.
THESE ARE ALL OPALS.

WASN'T IT AN OPAL YOU WANTED?

YEP.

WAIT, WHAT?

WELL... THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT...

...WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS... WELL, IT'S COMPLETELY...

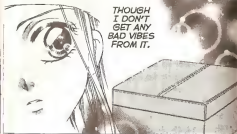
AMK, IT'S SO DISAPPOINTING!

IT'S GOT THE COLORS OF DIFFERENT JEWELS ALL BOLLED INTO ONE, AND IT'S CALLED THE WISE MAN'S STONE.

AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT MY GREAT-ROTHER SOLD ME.

BUT... OH, WELL...

REACH...



THOUGH
I DON'T
GET ANY
BAD VIBES
FROM IT.



HUH?

HE
SPECIALIZES
IN STONES
THAT ARE
POSSESSED
BY SPIRITS.

SO...



I KNOW
MRS. JOE
TODAY
MUST'VE
BEEN TO
TSUGUMI'S
HOUSE!!

HE MUST
MEAN
RINTARO-
SAN...

RATTLE

SORRY
FOR
WAKING
YOU WAT.

...RINTARO
FROM WORK...
...INTRO-
DUCED
ME TO A
MAYBE
SOMEONE.



MY DAD
SAID THE
REASON
HIS
BUSINESS
HASN'T
BEEN
DOING
WELL...

...IS
BECAUSE
OF THE
OPALS?

THAT'S
RIGHT?

YOU'RE
GOING TO
EXCISE
THE
OPALS??

HUH??



SINCE
LONG
AGO, THE
OPAL...

...HAS
BEEN
DEVELOPED
AS A SIGN
THAT
BRINGS
MISFORTUNE.

WHO
WOULDN'T
BE NERVOUS
AFTER
HEARING
THAT?

BUT,
TSUGUMI...

I DON'T
KNOW
WHO
WAKED
YOU TO
THINK
THAT
WAY, BUT...
...YOU
REALLY
ARE
SUPER-
STITIOUS.



...THIS
JEWEL
SEEMS
TO HAVE
STRONG
POWERS.

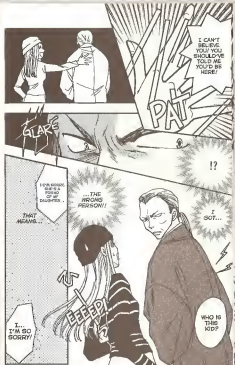
WELL, I
MUST
ADMIT...

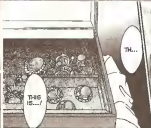


I'VE
HEARD
THAT,
ANYWAY.

EXCEPT
FOR L-SEE, HIS
WIFE'S
BIRTHSTONE
IS OPAL. THEY DON'T
GO WITH
ANYBODY.

THAT'S
...





THIS IS...

TH...



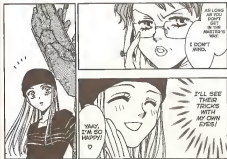
I DON'T EVEN KNOW DELIBERATELY
THAT I THOUGHT HE WAS
POSSIBLY TELLING
THESE



IT MAY BE
THE LIVING
SPIRIT OF
SOMEONE
JEALOUS
OF YOU,
KUNIKIDA-
SAN.

LIVING
SPIRIT
?

CLACK



AS LONG
AS YOU
DON'T
GET
IN THE
MASTER'S
WAY.

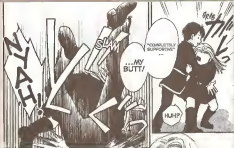
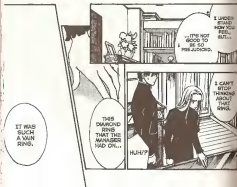
I DON'T
MIND.

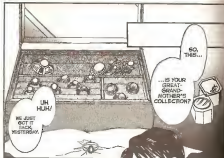
I'LL SEE
THEIR
TRICKS
WITH
MY OWN
EYES!

YAW,
I'M SO
HAPPY!









SO,
THIS...

...IS YOUR
GREAT-
MOTHER'S
COLLECTION?

UH
HUH!

WE JUST
GOT IT
BACK
YESTERDAY.

THESE
JEWELS ARE
WORTHLESS.

ARE
YOU
SURE?



I CAN'T
IMAGINE A
COLLECTOR
WANTS
THEM.

CLINK

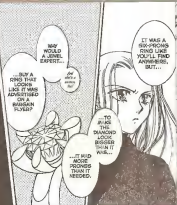


WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
IT?

IT

JUST TO
BE SURE
WOULD
YOU...

LET
ME SEE
THOSE
ONALS?



HOW
WOULD
A JEWEL
EXPERT...

OH,
SHE'S A
JEWEL
EXPERT.

...BUY A
RING THAT
LOOKS
LIKE IT WAS
ADVERTISED
ON A
MAGAZINE
COVER?

IT WAS A
SIX-PEDALS
RING LIKE
YOU'LL FIND
ANYWHERE,
BUT...

...TO MAKE
THIS
DIAMOND
LOOK
BIGGER
THAN IT
WAS...

...IT WOULD
PROVE
THAT IT
NEEDED.



WHEN-
SAY,
SOMETIMES
YOUR
INTUITION IS
DEAD ON.

Doublet

↓ Crystal glass



THE SOLID ORALS THAT ARE POLISHED OUT OF THAT ROOT ORE...

SO, A THICK ROOT ORE IS EXTREMELY RARE AND VALUABLE.

TO BEGIN WITH THE ORALS...

...ARE OF A NON-CRYSTALLIZED MINERAL.

↓ Crystal glass



→ Oral



...COMPARED TO JOINED FORMS LIKE DOUBLETS AND "DEPLETS"...

↑ Deplet

Solid

...ARE FAR MORE EXPENSIVE.

THEY'RE BORN BY HOT WATER THAT WAS SEQUESTERED IN IT, FOUND WITHIN ROCKS.

THEN, MY GREAT-GRAND-MOTHER'S COLLECTION IS...

...THE "SOLID" KIND.

!?

GASP!



THEN THEY'RE FAKES!?

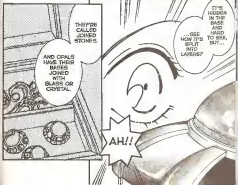
NO, THEY'RE GENUINE ORALS.

THE TYPE THAT ARE ALL OVER THE MARKET THESE DAYS.



TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT IT FROM THE SIDE.

HERE.



THEY'RE CALLED JOINED STONES.

AND ORALS HAVE THEIR BASES JOINED WITH GLASS OR CRYSTAL.

...GEE HOW IT'S SPLIT INTO LAYERS?

IT'S HIDDEN IN THE BASE AND HARD TO SEE, BUT...

AH!!

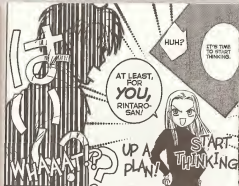




WE'VE GOT
A REAL
WISE MAN'S
STONE ON
OUR SIDE.



YOU
STOLE
THIS
CRAL
BLACK
THEN?





...AND OF COURSE, HE WON'T MENTION YOUR NAME.

ONCE HE PURSUE THIS ORN, WE'LL RETURN IT TO KUNIO-SAN...



I UNDERSTAND.



THANK YOU SO MUCH!



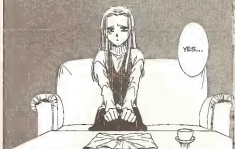
STOP RIGHT THERE!

Burst of tears crying

NICE JOB REELING THEM IN!



WILL THAT BE TAKING THEM?



YES...



I MEAN, IT'S SO READABLE...

TRACED BY SO FEW OF THEM...

COULDN'T WEAR A PINPOINT AND YOUR...



BUT...

IF ANYONE FINDS OUT, I'LL GET ARRESTED!



BUT, AFTER THAT...

...I'VE BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT AND AM RATHER OUT OF SICK...

ALL THESE STRANGE THINGS STARTED TO HAPPEN...

...AM
THE
SPIRIT
OF THE
OPAL.





EXPRESSION OF EXTREME PITY



FINE.

SLIP



EKK!!

CLATTER

WHA?

L...

HOW RUDE.

TMP
TMP
TMP

I'M NOT
FOOLISH
BY ANYONE

YOU'D BE
LUCKY IF
IT WAS
ONLY A
SLIGHT
OF HAND...

THAT WAS A
PRAISEFUL
SLIGHT-
OF-HAND,
BUT...

EE...
EE!!

THE BROWN-
COLORED
BEEHIVE
THAT SHINES
OFF THE
OPAL...

...IS WHAT
MAKES
PEOPLE
LISTEN
THEN TO A
GODDESS'...
VEIL...

ARE YOU
READY TO
STAIN THAT
MYSTERIOUS
VEIL?

THE
WEIGHT
OF SUCH
A BARGE
STONE...

...IS
TOO
MUCH
FOR
YOU TWO

CLK

CLK

BEFORE YOU
ANGER THE
GODDESS...

...YOU
NEED TO
DELIVER
IT TO THE
RIGHTFUL
OWNER.

IT'S
KILLING
ME...

NO
THOUGHT
...

NO
THOUGHT'S
NO DOY...

WATER
...

EEK!

M...

MON-
STER

JUST
LIKE...

...THIS.

...AND
THEY
SUFFER
IN THIRST
AND DIE.

BY THE
CURSE OF
THE ORAL
WATER,
THAT IS
THE FOOD
OF LIFE IS
STOLEN...

IT HAS
THE SAME
INGREDIENT
AS THE RUMOR
WE USED AS
THE DORMS
(SUN) IN
FOODSTUFFS.

WHEN IT
DRIES UP,
THE COLOR
FADING AND
IT CRACKS.

SWEETNESS
WHO
POSSIBLE
IT, SUFFICE
THE GAME
FATE.

THESE WATER
DRIES UP
AND IN
CONSEQUENCE,
IT IS RETURNED
TO THE OWNER.

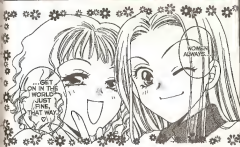
ORALS
KEEP
WATER
IN THEIR
BODIES.

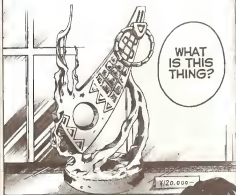
BEHOLD.

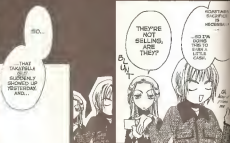
THE
PUNISHMENT'S
ALREADY
BEFALLEN
THIS GIRL.

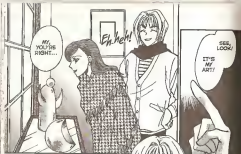
PUNISH-
MENT?

Jewelry File 10
Emerald









IT'S SO
LARGE AND
BRIGHTLY
COLORED.

OH!
WHAT A
BEAUTIFUL
EMERALD!

MY NAME
HAS THE
CHARACTER
FOR "GREEN"
IN IT...

...SO,
THAT'S
PROBABLY
WHY I HAVE
SUCH AN
AFFINITY
FOR EMERALDS.

I
SEE.

BUT, I'M
AFRAID
TO DO IT
MYSELF...

THIS IS MY
FAVORITE.

IT NEEDS
TO BE
CLEANED.

WELL
!?

HUH?

THANKS

PLEASE
WAIT
HERE.

SHE
UNDERSTANDS
MY TALENT
AND IS
SUPPORTING
ME...

SHE'S
THE
BEST
WOMAN!

I
SEE...

MIYUKO
NASHIKI-
SAN

HER
HUSBAND
RUNS
TONS OF
GALLERIES.

THAT'S
HOW WE
MET.

MY I
TAKE
THIS
OPPOR-
TUNITY...

...TO HAVE
MY EYES
CLEANED?

SLIP

YES,
PRETTY
MUCH.

THIS
PLACE...
IS A
JEWELRY
SHOP, RIGHT?

MY
FATHER

☆
THE
PERFECT
WOMAN
SENT TO
ME BY GOD
FOR THE
BIRTH OF
MY MASTER-
PIECE...

THAT'S
RIGHT!

THIS
WAS
FATE!

...IS
MIWAKO-
SAN!

EMERALDS
REPRESENT
VICTORY
AND
SUCCESS.

AND THEY
EMBODIES
THE
GODDESS
OF BEAUTY.

THAT'S
NOT
TRUE!!

SMART
AND
KIND...

WHEN
THEY SAY
FLAMELESS,
THEY MUST
MEAN YOU,
MIWAKO-
SAN.

ISN'T
SHE A
PRETTY
WOMAN?

SW
OO
N

NOTO-
KUN,
YOU
FLATTER
ME TOO
MUCH.

IT FEELS
LIKE MY
MAGNETIC
ATTRACTIVE
WILL COME TO FRUITION!

OVER
EMITS
ARRESTING
YOUR
MIWAKO-
SAN...
MY
CREATIVE
SPIRITS
ARE
OVER-
FLOWING!

THEY
EXHIBIT
GREAT
POWER
FOR
CREATIVE
WORK.

AND
ARE
CALLED
POWER
STONES
FOR IT.

HOW
AMINO
AMINO...

...OF
YOU TO
CALL
ME A
VENUS.

SOMEBODY
STOP THIS
GUY...

YOU
MUST
BE MY
VENUS,
MIWAKO-
SAN!

I
KNOW!

WHEN I
MARRIED
YOU, DON'T
FORGET.

DON'T
YOU
THINK
YOUR
GETTING
A LITTLE
TOO INTO
THIS?



SHE'S A PIMP,
MORE LIKE IT.

PEPPER,
HE
CALLS HER.



HOW I
ENVY
THAT
LIFE...

DAZED



THERE'S
NO SUCH
THING...

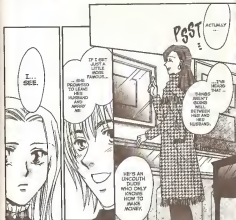
...AS A
PERFECT
HUMAN.



This is a
lawless
area, huh?

SOME
CONTRACT
MAD AS
ROCKETS...

...WON'T
HINDER
OUR
LOVE!



I...
SEE.

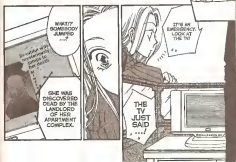
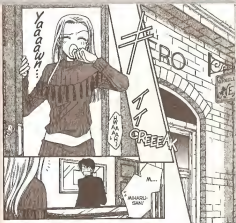
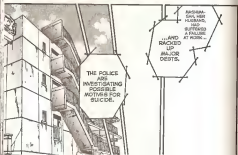
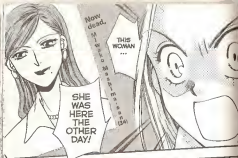
IF I GET
JUST A
LITTLE
MORE
FAMOUS...

...HE
DECIDED
TO LEAVE
HIS
WIFE
AND
MARRY
ME.

PSST...
ACTUALLY...

THE
MARRIAGE
THAT...
THINGS
WON'T
GO
WELL
BETWEEN
HER
AND
HIS
HUSBAND.

HE'S AN
UNCOUTH
THUG
WHO ONLY
KNOWS
HOW TO
WALK
JACKIN'.





I'M SAYING...

...SHE
MIGHT'VE
BEEN
MURDERED.

PEOPLE
WHO
ARE SO
DESPERATE
THEY TAKE
THEIR OWN
LIVES...

...DON'T
GET THEIR
JEWELRY
CLEANED
ON A WHIM.
I DON'T
THINK.



HE'S
RIGHT.

KILLED
IT?
WHY?

LIFE
DANGEROUS
TO JUDGE
THAT BASED
ON A GUESS



THAT'S
TRUE.

BUT

WELL...
THEN...



I WAS
WORRIED...
BECAUSE
SHE
SEEMED
BLISSFUL,
BUT...

...IF SHE WAS
SUFFERING
ENOUGH TO
TAKE HER
OWN LIFE, SHE
SHOULDN'T
TALKED TO ME
ABOUT IT...



TWO
DAYS
AGO...

...WE
LEFT
THE
SHOP
AND
WENT
TO
EAT...

...AND
THEN
SHE
SPOKE
IN FRONT
OF MY
HOUSE.



WHAT...

...DO
YOU
MEAN?



DO YOU
REALLY
THINK SHE
KILLED
HERSELF?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

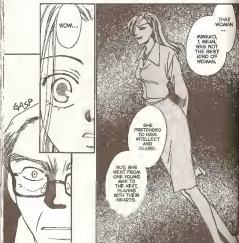
WE DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW IF IT WAS SUICIDE.

WWW

SHE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE...

...SHE HAD THAT ON HER AND...

And a few others...



WOW...

THAT WOMAN

WWW, I MEAN, WAS NOT THE BEST KIND OF WOMAN.

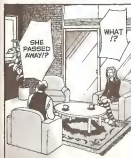
SHE PORTENDED TO HAVE INTELLECT AND CLASS.

BUT SHE WENT FROM ONE YOUNG MAN TO THE NEXT, PLAYING WITH THEIR HEARTS.



LET'S DECIDE AFTER WE LOOK INTO IT!

HER EMERALD RING?



SHE PASSED AWAY?

WHAT IF?



THAT'S RIGHT.

...AND WE'VE COME TO RE-CLEAN IT.

THE OTHER DAY, YOUR WIFE LEFT IT WITH US, BUT WE MADE AN ERROR...

YOU THINK
HE WAS
APPROX
VED LIFE
INSURANCE?

MYAKO-
SAN WAS
HEAVILY
INSURED.

THE
BENEFICIARY
IS HER
HUSBAND,
MASHU-
SAN.

!?

WHO?

WHAT'S
UP WITH
THIS?

NO WAY!
YOU'RE
SAYING
EVEN A
JEWEL LIKE
THIS CAN
CRACK?

AAAH,
IT GOT
CRACKED
IN THE FALL.

TOO BAD.
IT WAS
SUCH A
PRETTY
JEWEL...

MASHU-
SAN'S
COMPANY
HASN'T
BEEN DOING
WELL,
LATELY.

THE
POLICE
ARE
LOOKING
AT HIM
AS A
SUSPECT.

NOW
THEN

TAKE
THIS
AWAY
WITH
YOU.

I...
I HAD
TOO
MUCH.

CLACK

SHE WAS
WEARING
IT WHEN
SHE DIED,
BUT...

...IT'S
WORTH
LESS
NOW.

WELL?

DID YOU
FIND OUT
ANYTHING?

YEAH.

MASHU-
SAN!

...IT'S
POPULAR
TO
REINFORCE
AND
IMPROVE
THEM.

...AND
TREATMENTS
BY FILLING
THAT PLUS
THEIR UP...

WITH
ENHANCEMENTS
THANKS TO
COLORLESS
OILS, AND
IMPRESSIONS
LIKE RESIN...

...COLORING
AND
COATING
THANKS TO
COLORING
OILS, AND
RESINS...

COMES
TO OTHER
STONES...

...EMERALDS
HAVE A
LOT OF
OCCLUSIONS
AND ARE
EASY TO
BREAK.

Treatments

Methods of improvement to
transform the appearance of
the stone's color, through
man-made methods using
chemistry and physics, despite
the stone's natural properties

Enhancements

Methods of improvement
that bring out the original
latent beauty of the stone,
through artificial means.

...IT'S EASY TO
REINFORCE
THE OILS, AND
THE OCCLUSIONS
WOULD
COME OUT.
BUT
THIS
WOULD
LEAD TO
THE
DISCOLOR-
ATION
WE SAW.

IT'S EASY TO
REINFORCE
THE OILS, AND
THE OCCLUSIONS
WOULD
COME OUT.
BUT
THIS
WOULD
LEAD TO
THE
DISCOLOR-
ATION
WE SAW.

AND SHE
WOULDN'T
GET IN A
HOT TUB
WITH IT
ON...

I GOT HER
RING ALSO
CHECKED
WITH HER
MAKE-UP
AND NAIL
POLISH
REMOVED.

I CAN'T
IMAGINE
SHE'D
DO THAT
WITH HER
RING ON,
OR ANYTHING.

TRUE.

BUT, SHE
ASKED
OUR
JEWELRY
SHOP TO
CLEAN
HER
STONE...

...THAT
MEANS
SHE KNOWS
ALL ABOUT
EMERALDS.

WHAT?!

I DON'T
THINK...
A FALL
DID THIS.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.

IT'S
WASHED
OUT...

THE
COLOR
IS?

AND THE
COLOR'S
ALL
FADED,
TOO...

I
SEE...

EMERALDS,
OPALS, AND
PEARLS ARE
ESPECIALLY
DELICATE.

YOU HAVE
TO TREAT
THEM VERY
CAREFULLY.

...PLEN-
TY OF THEM
ARE
SURPRIS-
INGLY
FRAGILE.

PEOPLE
THINK
THAT
JEWELS
ARE
REALLY
TOUGH,
BUT...

YES,
THEY
CAN.







IT'S A
CHEMICAL
THAT, WHEN
APPLIED TO
THE SURFACE
OF SILVER
AND OTHER
METALS...

ALSO
CALLED
TARNISHING
SOLUTION.

...DEBIDES
THEM AND
MAKES
THEM
LOOK
OLDER



...IF IT EVER
SPILED,
THE STRONG
SMELL WOULDN'T
GO AWAY FOR
A WHILE.

THE MAIN
INGREDIENT
IS SULFUR,
SO...

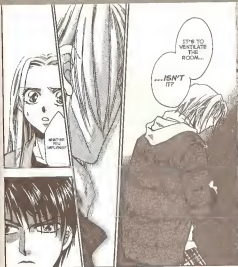


DON'T TELL
ME, THE
DISCOLORATION
OF THE
SHEILD WAS
FROM...



SULFUR...?
YOU MEAN
LIKE THE
KIND AT HOT
SPRINGS?

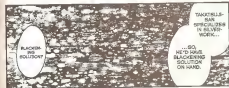
HOT...



IT'S TO
VENTILATE
THE ROOM...

...ISN'T
IT?

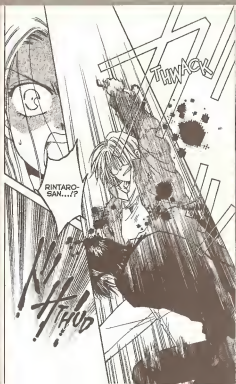
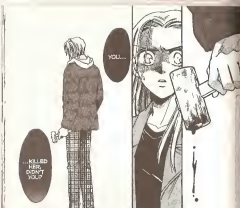
WAITED
FOR
SULFUR?



BLACKENING
SOLUTION?

TACKLE-
BAR
SPECIALIZES
IN SILVER-
WORK...

...SO,
WE'D HAVE
BLACKENING
SOLUTION
ON HAND.





SHE WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
PERFECT.

I
THOUGHT
SHE
WAS MY
GODDESS,
ALL
ALONE.

SH...

SHUT
UP!!

SHE DIDN'T
FIT YOUR
IDEAL, SO
YOU KILLED
HER, IS
THAT IT?

BUT,
SHE
WASN'T.



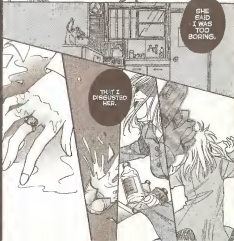
NO-
BODY...

... WOULD
BUY THAT
AS A
MOTIVE!

HOW
SPOILED
CAN
YOU
BE!?



MIYAKO-
SAN
BETRAYED
ME.



SHE
SAID
I WAS
TOO
BORING.

THAT I
DISGUSTED
HER.

FOR A STONE,
DAMAGE
AND
DODGE-
SCAMS...
...ARE
NOTED AS
NEGATIVE
POINTS
THAT
BRING
DOWN ITS
GRADE.

AT THE SAME
TIME, THEY
SERVE AS
OBVIOUS
PROOF TO TELL
THEM FROM
"100-PERFECT
FAKES."

DON'T
YOU
KNOW?

TWIST!

WAAH!

IT'S
NATURAL
THAT YOUR
BEAUTIFUL
STONE,
YOUR VENUS,
SHOULD
HAVE HER
FAULTS.

THEY EVEN
SAY THAT
"IT'S HARDER
TO FIND A
FLAWLESS
EMERALD,
THAN A
FAULTLESS
HUMAN."

IF YOU
DON'T
HAVE WHAT
IT TAKES
TO ACCEPT
THOSE
FAULTS...

...THEN
YOU DON'T
DESERVE
TO HAVE
HER.

SPRAIN

LET ME
SO! LET ME
G-
KUH...



RINTARO-
SAN!
YOU'RE
OKAY!

MY
LITTLE
KITTEN'S
RIGHT,
BOY.



...WHO
HAD
OURSELVES
A LITTLE
CASE OF
DEJA VU
?

IF I HADN'T
CHANGED
RIGHT
AWAY
THANKS
TO THE
WISE
MAN'S
STONE...



WH...
WHO
ARE
YOU?!

WHERE'D
YOU--?

!?





JEWELS
THAT
ARE TOO
BEAUTIFUL...

...ARE
OFTEN
RAKES,
PROCESSED
TO HIDE
THEIR
FLAWS.

HE
SHOULD
HAVE
KNOWN
THAT.



DON'T YOU
THINK THAT
AN ARTIST
WHO CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
BEAUTY...

...DOESN'T
NEED
ARMES?

HE WHO
CANNOT
APPRECIATE
THE
EMERALD'S
BEAUTY...

...IS A
FOOL WHO
DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND
BEAUTY,
AT ALL.

A ROMAN
EMPEROR
SAID THAT.

♡ Hello ♡

My most sincere thanks for picking up this super late "A Woe Man Slaps" volume 2. Despite being an irregularly serialized series, I'm really grateful that there are still readers out there who were looking forward to its continuation. brotoid! brotoid! ♡

With the huge gaps from one volume to the next ♡, and the removal of the magazine subscription, there was a change in policy. So, compared to the mystery and slightly horror flavor of the first volume, the second volume became more like a mystery and detective story. Compared with the others, though right? ♡ Afterward, as well, there was some trial and error, so that I really felt deep down how margin is so much like a living thing. It was quite an eye-opening experience. Oh, well, if it's indeed living then at least I can rejoice in the fact that it's maturing. So, heh, but I'd make me so happy if you could enjoy that for even just a little. ♡ Well, well we meet again somewhere!!

Mich

GO! MEDIA
ENTERTAINMENT, LLC
28047 GORDON RD.
SUITE 200
ASHBURN, VA 20147

THANK YOU !!

A MEETING ONE DAY



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SPECIAL THANKS
TO:
YUKAKO.T
AKIRA.K
RIWA
TAKUMI.A
EMUK
ASUKA.D
TAKI.I
HITOYO.S
M.HOSHINO
MY FAMILY

A Woe Man Slaps 2 / 143



That depiction of Rinko on the cover is such a fake!



Joining File 18: Emerald / END